

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1989 Payne, T.M. and K. Baumgardt
Archeological Investigations at Melwood Park Plantation (18PR225), Prince George's
County, Maryland.
Submitted to Melwood Park Associates

Library ID No: 00006665 Catalog/Shelving ID: PR 103

Research Firm/Institution:

MAAR Associates, Inc.
PO Box 655
Newark, DE 19711

Sites examined:

18PR225

Project Details:

Phase I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project Justification: In the summer of 1988, a cultural resources management firm was contracted to conduct an archeological investigation at Melwood Park Plantation (18PR225) by Melwood Park Associates of Upper Marlboro, developers of a proposed residential/commercial project. The requested investigation primarily concerned the developer's plans to incorporate portions of an historic period plantation/farmstead into their development. The work was being conducted in response to a request by the Prince George's County Zoning Board preparatory to their consideration of a permit application for the construction of an inn and restaurant. The survey complied with existing cultural resource management legislation (Section 106, state, and local laws).
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III		

MAC Accession: 2005.040.001

Project Objectives:

- Study the history of the residence in order to ascertain the chronology of construction and any alterations made to the structure.
- Locate any ancillary structures that relate to the 18th and 19th century operation of the plantation.
- Determine if a British military encampment was ever established in the western field next to the Melwood residence during their march toward Washington, DC in the War of 1812.
- Identify any unrecorded, early functional areas and structures that relate to the plantation's operation.
- Remain sensitive to the possibility that human remains reside in the family cemetery that was located just east of the house. Burials are believed to have been largely re-interred elsewhere.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18PR225.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2003 Gibb, J.
Limited Phase II Archaeological Site Examination at Melwood Park (18PR225), Melwood,
Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to William and Nicolette Hendricks

Library ID No: 97002001 Catalog/Shelving ID: PR 305

Research Firm/Institution:

Gibb Archaeological Consulting
2554 Carrollton Road
Annapolis, MD 21403

Sites examined:

18PR225

Project Details:

Phase I		Project Justification: This limited Phase II archeological study focused on the recently demolished (2002) rear ell of the 18th century Melwood Park manor house. This structure was in very poor condition, threatening the survival of the main structure. Architectural evidence, specifically clapboarding on the central portion of the dwelling's north façade, suggested that there had been an earlier addition to the north side that had been replaced in the 20th century by the recently removed one-story frame ell. In accordance with a deed of easement held by MHT, the property owners sought approval for the rebuilding of the rear ell of their dwelling. They also sought approval for construction of an outbuilding at the approximate location of a razed barn. The archeological research detailed in this report examined the interior and exterior perimeter of the ell's cellar and the footprint of the
Phase II	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Phase III		

Project Objectives:

- Obtain spatial data on the distributions of structural remains and architectural artifacts, as well as chronological data principally provided by nails and ceramics.
- Compare the Melwood Park houselot landscape to other plantation sites of the period.
- Determine whether or not the site has stratigraphic integrity through soils and artifact analyses.
- Assess how the placement and design of the plantation landscape reflected upon the social standing of the site inhabitants and how it changed over time.

demolished barn: prerequisites that MHT placed on approval for the new construction.

MAC Accession: 2005.040.001

-Assess the range of activities and behaviors (particularly as they relate to the inhabitants' position in society) represented by the glass vessel and ceramic sherd assemblages.

-Determine if the two or three primary groups of inhabitants at Melwood Park (slaves, overseers, and slave-holders) can be distinguished in terms of separate patterns of choices in animal species selection and preparation.

-Determine if different behaviors can be discerned through analysis of the faunal assemblage.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18PR225.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2012 Palus, M. M.
Archeological Investigation of House Foundations at Melwood Park (18PR225), Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Melwood Parke Foundation, Inc.

Library ID No: 95001856 Catalog/Shelving ID: PR 591

Research Firm/Institution:

The Ottery Group
3420 Morningwood Drive
Olney, MD 20832

Sites examined:

18PR225

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II



Phase III

Project Justification:

This report describes a 2011 Phase II investigation of the historic Ignatius Digges House at Melwood Park. The purpose of the investigation was to assess the extent and condition of any intact archeological features and deposits adjacent to the house foundations that could be impacted by future efforts to stabilize the structure, as well as to provide archeological and architectural data pertaining to the history of construction and modification to the house. The site is situated on property owned privately by the Melwood Parke Foundation, Inc. The Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the house and approximately 12.5 acres of land surrounding it.

Project Objectives:

-Assess the extent and condition of intact archeological deposits adjacent to the house foundations that could be impacted by future efforts to stabilize the structure.

-Provide archeological and architectural data pertaining to the history of construction and modification to the house.

-Determine the presence/absence of any structural features that are historically older than the existing dwelling (believed to have been constructed in 1714).

Research Potential:

Fieldwork at 18PR225 revealed evidence of intact and stratified archeological deposits dating from the 18th century through modern times. In addition, many of the features exposed during fieldwork have not been fully excavated (such as some of the pits in the cellar feature exposed in 2002/2003). Thus, 18PR225 retains significant archeological research potential. Furthermore, as a site linked through archival evidence to important figures and events in American and Maryland history, and to a locally prominent planter family, 18PR225 should be treated as an extremely significant site and managed accordingly.